

WLAJ 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Programming  
October 2005

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>: News @ 6

Racial Accusations- According to a police report and several witnesses, on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, on MSU campus three white males tried to force their way into a Hispanic Students dorm room. After they were denied access, one of the males attacked a female Mexican student.

Fatal Accident- Second degree murder charges have been filed against the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident that left two Central Michigan University Students dead and two others injured. Police say 22 year old Gerardo Garcia of Lansing was drunk and traveling the wrong way on US-127 near State Rd. early Sunday when he hit the car carrying the students.

Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>: News @ 6

Nurse Strike: Talks between Ingham Regional Medical Center and the professional employees international union, Local 459, have continued tonight. Union Reps say they're asking for a better nurse to patient ratio and a better economic package.

Nude Farmers: Farmers from Western Michigan are modeling something other than straw hats and overalls in a recent calendar. That's right, 12 brave farmers have traded in their work clothes for suits. "Birthday" suits, that is. All proceeds from the calendar are being donated to a local charity.

Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>: News @ 6

UAW and GM: General Motors Chairman Rick Wagoner announced today that GM and the UAW have struck a tentative deal on health care cuts. This agreement could affect the benefits of over 750 thousand employees. It may be bad news for auto workers, but GM says it could save the company billions of dollars.

Nurse Strike Continues: It's Day six of picketing for Ingham Regional Medical Center's Nursing Staff after weekend talks were unsuccessful at ending the strike. According to a federal mediator, hospital management presented union officials with a staffing proposal today. Local 459 Reps are expected to bring a counter proposal to the table tomorrow when talks resume. Until then, nurses are continuing to picket outside of the hospital.

Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>: News @ 6

Deadbeat Bosses: Senate Democrats are looking to flip Michigan's health care tab from taxpayers to employers. If passed, the bill would require corporations with more than 10-thousand employees to devote 8 percent of their payroll to health care coverage. Employers refusing to comply will be forced to reimburse the state for Medicaid related expenses.

Welfare Changes: Michigan residents who can't work due to their health are the targets of a new panel in the capital city. In addition to evaluating state welfare benefits, lawmakers created the panel to look for cost effective changes to the welfare program. Members will also review portions of the law that expire at the end of the year.

Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>: News @ 6

MI Soldiers: Two Armed Forces members from Michigan have died in Iraq. The Pentagon says Army Staff Sergeant Lewis Gentry of Detroit died Wednesday in Mosul from a non-combat related cause. The family of a Marine from Hillsdale says he died while on duty in Iraq. Relatives say Sergeant Michael Hodshire of North Adams died after being shot. He was 25.

Torture Law: The House Judiciary Committee is expected to take up a domestic anti-torture law tomorrow. The bill was proposed after a man near Bad Axe was accused of altering his diabetic wife's diet and withholding her medication so she would lose consciousness. Authorities say he then dressed her in provocative clothing, tied her hands, and asphyxiated her by placing a plastic bag over her head until she was near death. He was charged with kidnapping and abuse. However, the prosecutor says he would rather have had a law banning torture.

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>: News @ 6

Child Care: A proposal that would create a rating system for child care centers in Michigan is awaiting approval by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation that was created by Governor Granholm earlier this year. The system uses stars to rate centers. Backers say it will give parents a decision-making tool while encouraging child care centers to improve services.

Israeli Studies: The study abroad program in Israel is making its way back to MSU. University officials study five years ago because of Israeli and Palestinian violence. Of the five previously offered programs, only two are being reinstated, the ones being led by MSU faculty.

Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>: News @ 6

Business Tax Veto: Governor Granholm plans to re-open discussion on a new package of bills. Lawmakers passed the legislation which would cut business taxes and create a billion dollar investment fund but Granholm says she'll veto it. The bills would cut the state's single business tax in 2009 but Granholm says Republicans and Democrats agreed to resume taxing in 2010.

GM Agreement: GM employees will soon be spending more money at the doctor's office. UAW members have approved a plan for hourly employees to pay more for health care coverage. GM currently covers the cost for 750-thousand workers, retirees, and their dependents.

Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>: News @ 6

Gov. Signs Bills: Gov. Granholm signed bills today that would cut business taxes and create an investment fund to encourage more high tech jobs for Michigan. However, only the investment fund will take effect. None of the tax cuts can become law because they are tied to bills in a package that Granholm vetoed. Granholm urged lawmakers to return to the Capitol to make changes so the tax cuts can take effect.

School Funding: State House Republicans will announce a plan aimed at giving Michigan's Public Schools more money. The bipartisan fiscal agency projected there could be 55 million dollars more than expected in this year's school aid fund. The GOP plan would give some of that money to the state's lowest funded K-12 districts and put cash in a rainy day fund but the Gov. Calls the plan "fiscally irresponsible".

Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>: News @ 6

Payday Bill: Gov. Granholm has signed legislation to regulate the payday lending industry in Michigan. The new law limits loan amounts to caps finance charges. Payday loans are short-term, high-interest, and provide cash advances to borrowers who use their next paycheck as security. The measure limits borrowers to a maximum six-hundred-dollar loan in a 31 day period, and lets lenders charge service fees between eleven and fifteen percent.

Lansing Shooting: An 18 year old Lansing man is in the hospital after being shot. The LPD says around 2pm this afternoon Tyler Luken was playing video games in an apartment in the 2200 block of Risdale when a man walked in and shot him. Luken was taken to the hospital for surgery. Police don't have a motive for the shooting and Luken told police he didn't know the man.

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>: News @ 6

Lansing and Lead: Lead concentrations in Lansing's drinking water are down slightly but the BWL says it's committed to reducing lead levels even more. So far this year, the city has replaced some 1,400 lead service lines and plans to replace the remaining 11,000 over the next nine years. The utility's most recent round of tests show 90 percent of homes had lead concentrations that were better than the EPA's requirements.

Highway Fatality: Authorities plan to file charges in the death of a Holt construction worker. Police say 54 year old Martin Stott was killed Friday by a drunk driver while he was working along M-21 in Ionia County. Officials say they caught the driver in Montcalm after he fled from the scene. Charges are expected to be filed this week.

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>: News @ 6

Lugnut Condo Vote: The Lansing City Council will vote tonight on a proposal to build a development across the street from Lansing Lugnuts. The Stadium District would bring both residential and commercial property to the city. The development site would be on a 300 car parking lot across the street from Oldsmobile Park. If approved the city would collect 750-thousand dollars for the sale.

Nursing Home Fire: Two people were killed and at least 70 injured when flames broke out in a nursing home near Marquette early this morning. The fire began about 12-1 am. In the 122 bed Mather Nursing Center. A hospital official said the deaths and many of the injuries were caused by smoke inhalation. Residents were sent outside into 14 degree temperatures when the fire began. State Police said it was too early to say what caused the fire.

Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>: News @ 6

Admiral Robbery: Area police are looking for whoever robbed Admiral gas stations this morning. At 6:30 Lansing Township Police say a man about 24 years old and 6 feet tall walked into the station at Kalamazoo and Homer Street. He showed the clerk a gun and took off in a maroon Buick.

US-127 Fatal Accident: A 38 year-old mason woman is dead after an early morning accident. The Ingham county sheriff's office says Jody Scavarda was heading north on US-127 when she lost control of her car, crossed the median, and was struck by an oncoming vehicle. The driver of the other car received minor injuries.

Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>: News @ 6

State Bird Battle: Which bird should be named Michigan's official feathered friend? That question has been lingering around the state capitol for a few years now, but it may be answered soon with three bills pending in the state legislature. The incumbent is the robin, adopted as the state bird in 1931 by a resolution that some lawmakers say has expired. Two challengers are vying to knock the robin off its perch. One is the Kirtland's warbler and the second is the black-capped chickadee already named the state bird in both Massachusetts and Maine.

Soup Kitchen Fire: A fire struck the All Saints Catholic Church in Detroit this morning, destroying a soup kitchen that serves 500 people each week. The fire also damaged the parish hall and church building. Besides the 500 who visit the soup kitchen weekly, the church's pastor says, another 200 visit the parish pantry.